



SANDERS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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D.N.R.C.

November 28, 2007

John Tubbs, Administrator
Water Resources Division
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
PO Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

Dear Mr. Tubbs:

Gerald Mueller recently met with Commission Staff and explained the state initiative to contract with the United States Bureau of Reclamation for water stored in Hungry Horse reservoir to support new consumptive water uses in the Clark Fork River Basin as well as uses based on water rights junior to the lower basin hydropower water rights.

The Sanders County Commissioners wholeheartedly endorses this initiative given that the Avista Powers Dam at Noxon and the Thompson Falls Cogen are in Sanders County. Acquiring water now stored in Hungry Horse for use by Montanan's appears to be a reasonable way to proceed in solving a number of water right priority problems facing Montana.

We ask that the Clark Fork Task Force and the DNRC continue to keep Sanders County informed as this initiative progresses.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Board of Commissioners
Sanders County, Montana

Carol Brooker, Chairman

Harold L. Laws, Commissioner

J. Gail Patton, Commissioner